

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Number : TBD Confirmation No. TBD  
Applicant : DIRKS et al.  
Filed : February 6, 2004  
Tech Cntr/AU : TBD  
Examiner : TBD  
Entitled : BONE FIXING DEVICE  
  
Attorney Reference : 030268-0308234  
Customer Number : 00909

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATIONS**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application in the manner set forth below:

- Amendments to the Specification;
- Amendments to the Claims with a complete claim listing; and
- Remarks and arguments.